

Message Text

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12

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TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3444

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AN EDITORIAL IN NOVEMBER 14 CHINA NEWS UNDER HEAD, "KISSINGER AND THE FACTS."
2. IF HENRY KSSINGER PRACTICES WHAT HE PREACHES, THERE WILL BE NO UNTOWARD RESULTS FROM HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO PEIPING.
3. ADDRESSING CRITICS OF HIS PERSONAL DIPLOMACY THIS WEEK, HE SAID THAT FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS MUST NEVER ALLOW OPINIONS TO INTERFERE WITH THE FACTS.
4. EXACTLY. AND THAT GOES FOR RELATIONS WITH THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS AS WELL AS WITH ANYONE ELSE.

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5. HAS DR. KISSINGER ALWAYS HEEDED ONLY THE FACTS AND

DISREGARDED HIS OPINIONS IN NEGOTIATING WITH PEIPING?

6. LET US SUM UP A FEW FACTS ABOUT THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS, HOPING THAT THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE WILL DO THE SAME.

7. FIRST, THE REGIME IS UNSTABLE. IT HAS BEEN SHAKEN BY ONE PURGE AFTER ANOTHER.

8. SECOND, A STRUGGLE FOR POWER HAS BEEN UNDER WAY FOR MORE THAN A YEAR. THERE IS NO CLEAR SIGN OF WHO IS GOING TO WIN.

9. THIRD, A LEADERSHIP CHANGE IS IMMINENT. MAO TSE-TUNG IS OLD AND POSSIBLY SENILE. CHOU EN-LAI IS AILING.

10. FOURTH, NO LINE OF SUCCESSION HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. IT IS FOR THIS REASON, PRIMARILY, THAT THE "PEOPLE'S CONGRESS" CANNOT BE ASSEMBLED.

11. FIFTH, THE THINKING OF THE 800 MILLION PEOPLE CANNOT BE KNOWN WITH ANY ACCURACY BECAUSE THERE IS NO ACCESS TO THEM.

12. SIXTH, THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA PRESENTS A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO COMMUNISM ON THE CHINESE MAINLAND.

13. THESE FACTS POINT STRAIGHT TO AN OPINION THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY IN ITS RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEIPING.

14. WASHINGTON HAS NOTHING TO GAIN FROM ANY ALTERATION OF THE STATUS QUO. NOR NEED THE UNITED STATES FEAR THAT PEIPING WILL PACK UP ITS LIAISON OFFICE AND GO HOME, OR DESIST FROM TRADING.

15. MAYBE IT IS AN OPINION TO SAY THAT PEIPING NEEDS THE UNITED STATES MUCH MORE THAN THE UNITED STATES NEEDS PEIPING. BUT THE FACTS SUPPORTING SUCH A CONCLUSION ARE UNDENIABLE.

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16. THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS SUPREME OBJECTIVE IS TO COMPLETE THE USURPATION OF CHINA WITH THE SEIZURE OF TAIWAN. THEY CANNOT BREAK THE U.S.-REPUBLIC OF CHINA TIES BY FORCE SO THEY MUST TRY THE OTHER MEANS OF DIPLOMACY.

17. GEOGRAPHICAL PROPINQUITY MAKES THE U.S.S.R., AND NOT THE U.S., THE MAIN CHINESE COMMUNIST ANTAGONIST

IN THE SHORT RUN. DR. KISSINGER COULD DO WORSE THAN REMIND HIMSELF THAT THE INITIATIVE FOR RELAXATION OF TENSIONS CAME FROM PEIPING. NO ONE WOULD DENY THAT THE CHINESE COMMUNIST FEAR OF THE SOVIET UNION WAS A BASIC REASON FOR THE PEIPING THAW.

18. A FURTHER FACT IS THAT NO ONE KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN ON THE CHINESE MAINLAND IN THE NEXT YEAR OR TWO. THE BEST THINK TANK IN THE WORLD CANNOT COME UP WITH TRUSTWORTHY FORECASTS; TOO MANY PIECES ARE MISSING FROM THE FACTORS TO BE FED INTO THE COMPUTERS.

19. IT IS OUR OPINION, BASED ON FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE OF AMERICAN TRADITION AND THINKING, THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE WOULD PREFER A MORE LIBERAL AND FRIENDLY REGIME ON THE MAINLAND. THE FACT THAT KISSINGER DEALS WITH THE MAOISTS DOES NOT IMPLY THAT HE LIKES THEM OR THAT IN HIS HEART HE WOULD LIKE TO PERPETUATE THEM.

20. THIS IS A TIME, AS SENATOR HIRAM FONG HAS RECOMMENDED, FOR WAITING AND WATCHING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHINA SITUATION.

21. IF SECRETARY KISSINGER FOLLOWS THE FACTS AND NOT HIS OPINIONS, HE WILL CONTENT HIMSELF WITH PROTOCOL AND WITH INFORMATION SEEKING AT PEIPING. IF HE DOES FIND OUT ANY NEW FACTS, THEY ARE LIKELY TO SUPPORT A POLICY OF FURTHER WATCHFUL WAITING WHILE THE MAINLAND STRUGGLE COMES TO A HEAD.

CLARKE

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